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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 43 Berkeley, California December, 1961 Number 12

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Monterey Boat Trip—At 5 A.M., on the rather stormy day of October 9, about 35 members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society and the Los Angeles Audubon Society set off on a joint boat trip to observe pelagic birds. The wind was strong and the waves were large but the sun was shining and, most important of all, there were plenty of birds skimming over the water.

In all, a total of 17 strictly pelagic birds was recorded. Two or three Black-footed Albatrosses were close to the boat. The number and variety of shearwaters were phenomenal for Pink-footed, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters were abundant. An exceptionally large number of New Zealand Shearwaters were seen and two Slender-billed Shearwaters were positively identified. There were a few Fulmars in the area and some came close to the boat. In the morning, there were numbers of petrels in front of the boat and Ashy, Fork-tailed and a few Black Petrels were recorded. Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were scattered amongst the shearwaters, and during the day the phenomenal number of 11 different sightings of Skuas were made. Only 4 species of alcide were noted from the boat—Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets—Guy McCaskie and Richard Stalleup, *Leaders & Historians.*

Point Reyes Peninsula—This year's fall trip to the Point Reyes Peninsula, on October 21, was not a "repeat" of last year's - no tropical Kingbird turned up, although they were seen in the area, earlier in October of this year. The best find of the trip were six Golden Plovers recovered in a dry field by parts of the group in the afternoon, after they were first spotted there by a few early birders, in the morning. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were near a small pond. It was somewhat late for this species which occurs with us only as a fall migrant. A Yellowshafted Flicker on a fence pole near Drakes Beach had red nape and black whiskers marking it as a full-blooded male as far as field observations can reveal. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Townsend Warblers were comparatively numerous. Varied Thrushes were scarce. In all, over 100 species were seen or heard during the day.—Marie L. Mans, *Leader & Historian*

October Field Observations—Palm Warbler, observed carefully, south of Pigeon Point, San Mateo County coast, October 9, by Hans Meinhardt.

Three Clark Nutcrackers in the Presidio, San Francisco, observed on several days. First seen October 25.

A Red-naped race, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a Townsend Solitaire in Golden Gate Park, October 29, by Florence Plymell.

A Townsend's Solitaire in Walnut Creek, by Victor L. Mann.

A Starling in Golden Gate Park, October 30, by Val DaCosta.

Pygmy Nuthatches in Golden Gate Park for several weeks were first seen, September 14, by Carlyle Sather.

CORRECTION

A Sanctuary & Memorial Fund gift sent by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Scott and Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles was contributed in memory of Mr. J. Gale Richardson, and not as reported in the November Gull.

REPORT—1961 ANNUAL CONVENTION

First of all, I'd like to thank the members of Golden Gate Branch for sending me to the 57th annual convention of the National Audubon Society—it was a wonderful experience and I want you all to know how much I appreciate having had the opportunity to attend as your representative.

The meeting was held in Atlantic City, October 28 to November 1, and consisted of 2-½ days of meetings, a field trip on Sunday and a business meeting on November 1. It was only the second convention held away from New York City and, judging from the advance registration, attendance at meetings and participation by Directors, the most successful.

The program was geared exclusively to the problems resulting from the impact today's urban man is having on our natural heritage: Problems involving endangered species; use of pesticides without regard for ecological effects; the drainage, pollution and "development" of our natural resources. Conservation activities in these areas are being reported so competently in *Audubon*, the bi-monthly publication of the National Audubon Society, I won't take space here to discuss them. Except to urge you—as we were all urged at Atlantic City—to follow developments carefully and give the National Audubon program your support—vocal and financial—wherever and whenever you can.

Three new projects I found of special interest:

(1) An exciting film about the bald eagle has been made by Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology as part of our "Save-the-Bald Eagle" program. I saw the film at Atlantic City, and I understand Bill Goodall is arranging to show it at one of our meetings soon. You mustn't miss this!

(2) Carl Buchheister has proposed that a Wildlife Conservation Stamp,

similar to the hunters' Duck Stamp, be issued annually as a license or pass for bird watchers, naturalists, picnickers and others who use National Wildlife Refuges for recreation. The stamp, depicting a different species each year of non-game, migratory wildlife, would be sold at post offices throughout the country, possibly for $2.00, to provide additional revenue for our great federal system of wildlife refuges. You'll undoubtedly be hearing more about this next year, when the idea is put into the form of a Congressional legislative proposal.

(3) The Audubon Society recently created a Nature Centers Division to encourage and assist American communities to set aside green islands of nature within the community for centers of nature appreciation and conservation education. (Not to be confused with the four Audubon Nature Centers operated by National Audubon.) This is a do-it-yourself program, with the Nature Centers Division supplying expert counsel and practical help. We're all familiar with two nature centers in our area—at Lake Merritt and Tilden Park. The greatly increased emphasis on nature centers by National Audubon is a new development and is expected to show some very worthwhile results.

There was much conversation at the convention about the advantages of getting away from New York City for the convention, and many people felt that a Middle Western city—perhaps St. Louis—would have considerable appeal. I say, how about San Francisco—the year when the Point Reyes National Park is officially opened? *ERLINE HEVEL*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

The 21st Annual Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources, sponsored by the California Conservation Council and Cooperators, was held at the California Academy of Sciences from October 26th through the 28th. Several Golden Gate Audubon members attended various sessions and your Conservation Chairman was asked to appear on the Saturday morning panel on Conservation and Outdoor Education.

"The film, *Water Bill U.S.A.*, was very impressive and graphic, and Dr. Robert T. Orr gave a fascinating account of our new state park, *Ano Nuevo Island*," reports Bonnie Smith, who attended the first evening sessions.

Friday afternoon sessions featured as speakers Dr. Robert C. Miller, Academy host, Edward F. Dolder of the State Department of Natural Resources and who has since been named the new chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, two representatives of the U.S. Forest Service who described new techniques in reforestration and conversion of brushlands to pasture, and Robert L. Jones of the Department of Fish and Game who outlines fish and wildlife protection problems in the Delta presented by the State Water Plan. The greatest of these problems would appear to be the projected Chips Island Barrier which would impose on fish movements a sharp salt-fresh water demarcation.

Speakers from the U.S. National Park Service, Stanford University, University of California and Academy of Sciences discussed various phases of Conservation under the chairmanship of Dr. William R. Sanborn of the San Francisco Schools—a former park naturalist we learned with great satisfaction. Dr. Robert C. Stebbins, the busy scientist-author-teacher who found time to make a local conservation film, again enthralled a professional audience with his *Nature Next Door.*

The evening program featured an address by Dr. Francis P. Felice of San Francisco State College, on *Saving San Francisco Bay, the Bay Area's Greatest Resource.* After reviewing the drastic changes of past decades which brought shrinkage of saltmarshes, pollution and the doom of the clam, oyster and shrimp industries, Dr. Felice revealed that our Bay still yields $84,000,000 in products—about 70% fish and game and 30% chemicals—while recreational benefits are incalculable! This address brought animated discussion from the floor. Colonel Huggins of the U. S. Army Engineers was there to answer many questions. (Need I remind all conservation-minded Golden Gaters to join the new *Save San Francisco Bay* organization, P. O. Box 925, Berkeley 1)

The Saturday panel was most stimulating to this participant but it must be admitted that the panel nearly outnumbered the audience. It is sad that so few public school teachers and youth leaders attended. Ways and means must be found to attract more of these people. John F. Shrawder of the State Department of Natural Resources noted that California still trails behind certain Eastern states in its school conservation-education camps and in availability of good textbooks and teaching films.

—Our faithful Conservation Committee worker, Bonnie Smith, drove up to Sacramento, October 20, for the Senate Committee hearings on the Wilderness Bill. She felt that the committee tried to be fair in hearing the arguments on both sides of the question.

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation chairman*

EAST BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual East Bay Christmas Count will be taken on Saturday, December 30, 1961, in the various parts of a 15-mile diameter circle (center Moraga Avenue and and Estates Drive) including part of San Francisco Bay aboard the Sea Scout ship *Marlin.* This day will start for some of us before dawn (owling), but for most at about 8 A. M.

PARTICIPANTS—If you are interested in spending the whole day or part of it, either with or under the guidance of a leader, please, contact one of the group leaders listed below.

FEEDERS—Last year five unusual species were reported from feeders and banding stations. Please, watch your yard closely on the above date, count all species present, and call in your report to the compiler or to the post-count gathering on the day. *Phone: CRestview* 3-3739.

POST-COUNT SNACK—Coffee and pastries on a share expense basis, at the Rotary Natural Seienee Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Starting time about 5:30 P. M. If YOU ARE PLANNING TO GOME TO THIS POST-GOUNT SNACK, PLEASE, GALL THE COMPILER ON OR BEFORE DEGEMBER 28, so she will know how many pastries to get.

GROUP LEADERS—Harry Adamson- AT 3-2164
Earl Albertson- DA 2-7421
Albert Boles - GL 1-6267
Paul Covel - KE 6-4120
Larry Curl - LA 6-7004
Phyllis Lindley-TH 8-6821
Harold Peterson LO 8-7534
Eleanor Pugh, P.O. Box 258
Diablo
Elsie Roemer - LA 2-0941
Lee Stalleup - LA 9-3185
Rieh Stalleup - LA 9-3185
Minnie Young - OL 5-3180

—MARIE MANS, Compiler, TH 8-5186
2723 B Stuart St., Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO BIRD COUNT

The annual San Franeiseo Gount will be held on Saturday, December 23, from 8 A. M. to 4 P. M. All members and friends wishing to assist in this annual fun event may do so by calling one of the group leaders listed below.

Group I - Palaee of Fine Arts, Joan Mayerle, DE 4-0637
Group II - MeLaren Park, Mission & Geneva, Frank Zografos, SU 2-6580
Group III - Land's End, Sutro Heights, Mrs. Land, BA 1-7707
Group IV - Golden Gate Park, 30th & Fulton, Dr. Albert Boles, GL 1-6267
Group V - Golden Gate Park, 10th & Fulton, Erline Hevel, PR 5-6498
Group VI - Golden Gate Park, 10th & Fulton, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208
Group VII - Lake Merced & Zoo, Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163
Group VIII - Stern Grove, Tom Oezkewecz, LO 4-2833
Group IX - Seal Roeks & Ocean, Harold Peterson, LO 8-7534
Group X - Presidio & Lombard Gate, *Volunteer needed*
Group XI - San Franeiseo Bay, foot of Van Ness., *Volunteer needed*
Group XII - Treasure & Yerba Buena Islands, L. R. Leinbaeh, LA 6-7649
Group XIII - Smaller Gity Parks & Givie Genter, Robert R. Ghase, JU 7-4018
Group XIV - Marin Shoreline & Rodeo Lagoon, Elizabeth Lennon, ED 2-1641

Participants are invited to help the Soeiety by sharing the 50¢ entry fee. Leaders are asked to send their group count to the eompiler, as soon as possible.

—GARLYLE SATHER, Compiler, PL 6-0581
1700 El Gamino Real, Rue 20-10, San Franeiseo

DECEMBER MEETING

The 524th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, Deeember 14, at 7:30 P. M., in the Rotary Natural Science Genter on Lake Merritt. Our speaker will be Mrs. Junea W. Kelly who is well known as an authority in ornithology and loeally for her *Six Trips Afield*. Her topic will be *The Warblers*.

A no-host dinner will be held at Gonover's at Perkins and Grand Ave., walking distance from the Science Genter, at six o'elock. You are urged to come and bring your friends. —MYRA J. BROWNE—*Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

On Saturday, December 2, to Conn Lake in Napa County. Meet at the Stone Bridge about one mile northeast of Napa, at 9 A.M. Bring binoculars, telescope, a lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

On Sunday, December 3, the Conn Lake trip will be repeated. This is being done to split the group for better birding. Leader, John Ralph, LA 5-0373.

On Sunday, December 10, to San Andreas and Crystal Springs Reservoirs. The reservoir has two large lakes and includes a variety of habitats such as dense oak-laurel-madrone forest with some Douglas fir, broken woodland, chaparral and grassland. Here we might see Ring-necked, Redhead, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey and Bald Eagle. Land birds will include warblers, kinglets, sparrows and possibly a Saw-whet Owl. By special arrangement with the San Francisco Water Department, we can drive into the main reservoir grounds. Meet at 8:30 A.M., at Camino Real and Millbrae Avenue, in Millbrae or at Skyline Blvd. and Millbrae Avenue, at 8:45 A. M. We will follow Millbrae Avenue into the reservoir area. Bring binoculars, telescope, a lunch and interested friends. Leader, Carlyle Sather, PLaza 6-0581.

On Monday, December 11. Golden Gate Park. This trip will start at 9:30 A.M., from the Aquarium in Golden Gate Park, which can be reached by taking the No. 10 Municipal Bus. Such interesting species as Hermit and Varied Thrush, Myrtle, Audubon and Townsend Warbler may be seen. Forty-seven species were counted here last January. Leader, Mrs. Robert Fry, SEabright 1-2874.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trip Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

President	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzales Dr., San Francisco 27	JU 7-4163
Editor	Mrs. Lucile E. Smith	1512 Grand Ave., Piedmont 11	OL 4-2335
Membership Chairman	Mrs. Roberta J. Long	45 Clarendon Ave., San Francisco 14	LO 4-7767
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10	GL 1-6267

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